

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-18, and 26-35 remain in this application.

Rejections under 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-15, 17, 18, 26, and 28-34 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitschelle et al., US Patent Number 5,777,951, in view of Marin, US Pub 2005/0068196. Claims 16, 27, and 35 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitschelle and Marin, and in further view of Bucholz et al., US Pub 2004/0201460A1

The rejections are avoided by removing Marin as a prior art reference. Marin has an effective prior art date of September 26, 2003, while the present application has a filing date of December 15, 2003. A declaration under 37 CFR §1.131 is submitted along with this response to the Office Action. The declaration asserts conception of the invention prior to September 26, 2003, and proves diligence in preparing the present patent application during the critical period between September 26, 2003 and December 15, 2003. Thus, the declaration effectively removes Marin as a prior art reference.

Removal of Marin as a prior art reference places claims 1-3, 5, 7-18, and 26-35 in condition for allowance, as argued in the response to the previous Office Action.

Miscellaneous

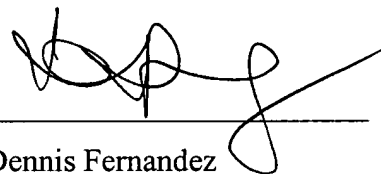
Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledges receipt of the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently with the specification.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted by Applicants that all the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited. If the Examiner's action is other than allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' attorney at the number noted below.

Date: 11/30/05

Respectfully submitted,



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